

URBAN DISTRICT OF BLETCHLEY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1944

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Chairman of the Council: COUNCILLOR O. WELLS, J.P.

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

Chairman: COUNCILLOR S. MAYCOCK

Councillors: H. P. DIMMOCK, J.P., C. D. FLACK, J.P., W. G. MELLIS,
A. J. STEVENS, J.P., and O. WELLS, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: COUNCILLOR W. G. MELLIS

Councillors: T. RICHARDSON, C. D. FLACK, J.P., F. A. BATES,
S. MAYCOCK and O. WELLS, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (on War Service):

A. MICHAEL CRITCHLEY, M.D., D.P.H.

Acting M.O.H.: JANET C. RONALDSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for
the Borough of Buckingham and the Rural District of Buckingham)

Sanitary Inspector:

A. BATES, A.M.Inst.C.E., M.I.M.& Cy.E., A.M.P.T.I., A.M.I.W.E.
(Certificate R.S.I. & S.I. Joint Board and Certificate R.S.I. Meat and
Food Inspection)

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Bletchley

Gentlemen,

In presenting my Annual Report for the year 1944, I have pleasure in stating that the health of Bletchley has remained at a satisfactory level.

While there has been no serious epidemic, an outbreak of Scarlet Fever occurred at the end of the year and there was also an increase in the notified cases of Whooping Cough as compared with 1943. There was, however, a corresponding decrease in the cases of Measles in 1944.

It is gratifying to note that again there was no Maternal Mortality and there has been no increase in Tuberculosis among the civilian population.

The Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic has been held regularly once a month and has always been well attended although the percentage of children treated, especially those under five years of age, is not so high as one would wish, and it is fortunate that only one case of Diphtheria occurred during the year.

The Welfare Clinic was well attended and the nutritional level of the children is high as it is in the Nursery School. There are, however, cases where the housing conditions and inevitable shortage reflect on the general health of the mothers in particular and it is gratifying to look forward to an improvement in housing conditions in the near future.

Other Health Services continued as in former years and have worked satisfactorily.

I should like to express my thanks in this, my final report, to the Council for their continued help and kindness during four years and to assure them that I shall follow the development of Bletchley with interest. I should also like to thank the Surveyor and his staff for their assistance and co-operation at all times.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JANET C. RONALDSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

Section A

Summary of Statistics

1944

Area (in acres)	4,463
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	8,992
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of year)	2,400
Rateable Value	£52,000
Rate per £1	£214/7/10
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate (gross)	£216/13/4
Births (legitimate)	Males 81 Females 57—138
Births (illegitimate)	Males 6 Females 3— 9
Still Births	Males 1 Females 3— 4
Deaths	Males 36 Females 52— 88
Deaths per 1,000 Population	9.78
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	0
Bletchley Maternal Mortality	0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	9
Deaths from Measles	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0
Deaths from Diphtheria	0

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS (*continued*)

Principal Causes of Death :						M.	F.	T.
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	6	6	12
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	8	10	18
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0	2	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0	2	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Ac : inf : encaph :	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	...	0	9	9
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Premature Births	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	1
Con : mal : Birth ; inj : infant : dis :	...	...	...	...	...	5	0	5
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	2
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	7	9	16
TOTAL						36	52	88

Section C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1. (i) WATER

Nothing of note has occurred in connection with the water supply of the town during the year. The quality of the water remains at its usual high level and frequent samples of the supply, both at the works and throughout the town, are taken. The following is a typical analysis :

	Parts per
19/12/44	100,000
Chloride/Chlorine	1.9
Nitrite/Nitrogen	Nil
Nitrate/Nitrogen	Nil
Free Ammonia	0.005
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0048
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37 deg. C.	0.16

Remarks: No chemical evidence of dangerous animal contamination.

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS—15/9/44

Count Yeastrel Agar 2 days 37 deg. C. ... 20 per ml.

Probable number of Coliform bacilli Mac-

Conkey 2 days 37 deg. C. ... 0 per 100 ml.

This water falls into Class 1 of the Ministry of Health's grading.

RESULT OF EXAMINATION

From a consideration of the above data, no exception can be taken to the use of this water for domestic purposes, upon bacteriological grounds.

(ii) DRAINAGE

The sewer in Denbigh Road has been extended for a distance of 500 yards. The Sewage Works, despite overloading, continues to function satisfactorily.

2. (i) RIVERS AND STREAMS

There has been no serious flooding during the year. The Ouse Catchment Board have cleaned out the stream from the Little Ouse to Brooklands Road.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The whole of the drainage of Bletchley is on the water car-

riage system except for a few houses at Water Eaton, the conversion of which is being deferred until the Water Eaton main drainage scheme is carried out. This scheme will be put into operation as soon as circumstances permit. No Sanitary nuisance arises from these isolated cases.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

House refuse is still collected on a fortnightly basis and the salvage has been up to standard.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

INSPECTIONS MADE

Water	...151	Housing	... 81	Buildings	... 10
Bakehouses	... 7	Sewerage	...119	Destructor	... 49
Factories	... 29	Drainage	... 99	Smoke	... 25
Food Premises	48	Slaughter-			
		houses	...298		
Total Inspections	...	...	...	...	916
Houses and Clothing	Disinfected		...	...	37
Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	23
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	0

(iv) SHOPS

Inspections have been made under the Shops Act of the shops in the district and no statutory action has been required to meet the provisions of the Act.

(v) CAMPING SITES

There are no registered camping sites in the Bletchley Urban area.

(vi) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

(a) There is no change in this position since previous reports.

(b) There is one privately owned swimming pool which is now being used as a static water tank.

(vii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

There have been only two cases of Bed Bugs during the year and appropriate action was taken. Apart from a minor recurrence later on the cases appear to have been satisfactorily dealt with.

(viii) SCHOOLS

The number of schools remains as before, though partly owing to the return to London of many evacuees there was a decline in the number of children.

General Provision of Health Services

1. Public Health Staff—*see page 1 of Report.*

HEALTH SERVICES

2. (a) Laboratory Facilities :

The Council has arranged with the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service of the School of Pathology, Oxford, to perform its pathological investigations. An economy has thereby been effected and a fuller service been acquired.

- (b) Ambulance Facilities :

The Austin 18 Ambulance continues to function satisfactorily and reciprocal arrangements are now in operation with Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Woburn Sands.

- (c) Nursing in the home remains as in the previous reports.

- (d) Clinics :

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

The welfare has been held weekly at the School Clinic, the M.O.H. attending twice each month. The Centre has carried on its function satisfactorily. National Pool Milk has been available for supply to mothers but there seems to have been no shortage of fresh milk. The demand, therefore, for pool milk has not been great.

Other Clinics under this head have been held as in previous years.

- (e) Hospitals :

No change in the hospitals serving this area has occurred since the last Medical Officer's of Health Report.

Section D

HOUSING

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :

1. (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ... 59
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 73
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... 59
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 41
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 0
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to

- under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 0
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :
 Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 59
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year ... Nil
4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV : OVERCROWDING
- (a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 0
 2. Number of families dwelling therein ... 0
 3. Number of persons dwelling therein ... 0
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 0
- (c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 0
 2. Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 0
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again been overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... 0
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... 0
- No new Council Houses have been built during the year.

Section E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

- (a) MILK SUPPLY. There are 34 farms registered and 30 retailers of milk.
- (b) MEAT. The Council's Sanitary Inspector has inspected all meat and this has meant a considerable increase in the scope of his duties not only because of the large number of animals slaughtered but also because of the irregular times of slaughtering and the great increase in the number of casualties slaughtered. It would appear that some system of centralised slaughtering, such as is now in operation, would be of great benefit both to the butcher and to the public after the war.

			Number Slaughtered	Number Inspected	Number Condemned
Cattle	...	...	1169	1169	50
Calves	...	...	808	808	1
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	4199	4199	12
Pigs	...	...	37	37	—
			—	—	—
TOTALS	...		6213	6213	63

Section F

Prevalence of and Control Over Infectious and Other Diseases

DIPHtheria PROPHYLAXIS

Diphtheria Prophylaxis continues as before, a clinic being held at Bletchley Welfare Clinic once a month. Attendance has been good and there is little need to urge parents to send their children. The vaccine used is Alum-Precipitated-Toxoid (A.P.T.) given in two doses.

		Under 5	Over 5	Total
Number of children treated	...	76	68	144
Percentage	... ..	40	31	

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED AND NUMBER ADMITTED TO AN ISOLATION HOSPITAL

1944				Admitted to	
Diseases				Hospital	
				Notified	
Diphtheria	1	1
Scarlet Fever	30	28
Erysipelas	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0
Pneumonia	2	0
Measles	0	0
Whooping Cough	37	0
Acute Primary Broncho-Pneumonia			...	2	0
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	8	0
Scabies	0	0
Catarrhal Jaundice	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS — 1944

New Cases				Deaths			
Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5	2	1	2	0	0	0	0

Cases of Infectious Diseases According to Age and Sex

		Total all Ages	Under 1 Year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	M. 13	0	0	0	0	1	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
		F. 17	0	0	2	1	3	6	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	M. 24	4	1	3	2	3	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		F. 17	1	1	0	1	1	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	...	M. 1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		F. 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	...	M. 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		F. 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	M. 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
		F. 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	...	M. 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		F. 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Primary Broncho-pneumonia		M. 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	...	F. 3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Catarrhal Jaundice	...	M. 2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
		F. 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		M. 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
		F. 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

